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BOOK REVIEWS.

HISTORY OF PIONEER KENTUCKY. R. S. COTTERELL, Member of the Filson Club, of the Kentucky State Historical Society and of the Bradford Memorial and Historical Association; Professor of History, Western Maryland College, 1917. Johnson & Hardin, Cincinnati, pp. 254.

Mr. Cotterill has prepared what is, no doubt, a valuable work on the early history of Kentucky. Its exact value must be left to the special students of the subject. He has, however, made some important discoveries. He finds that "probably never has history exhibited such prominent examples of incompetency and degeneracy as in Colonial Virginia," and, naturally, is gratified at the additional discovery that Kentucky is not Virginian in origin, in customs or in ideals, and that the majority of its settlers were from Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley or the western sections of the Carolinas. He roundly denounces the "Mother Virginia", myth. When a learned historian discovers things there is nothing for the man-in-the-street to do but accept his statements. That part of his work (and indeed no part of his work) will be questioned here. The real interest of the book lies in another direction, and that is in the wonderful and dire power of the Myth. It takes control of mens minds and hearts and souls and makes them do things against which their consciences revolt and which they struggle hard to avoid.

One would have supposed that against the stern and virtuous ideals of Pennsylvanians and Scotch-Irish the power of the effete Virginia east of the Blue Ridge would have been as nothing. If there was anything on earth a man would feel safe in asserting it would be this; but he who makes the assertion reckons without regarding the mighty, the hypnotizing power of the Myth.

When these good Pennsylvanians and Scotch-Irish, seething with resentment against a degenerate Eastern Virginia, set up for themselves what did they do? They doubtless intended and wished to elect only the simon pure as senators and representatives. Regardless of the wishes of the people of Kentucky the Myth forced on them as a senator John Edwards, whose ancestors had lived for generations in Lancaster and Westmoreland Counties, Va., and A. D. Orr, of Fairfax County. It must have been some comfort to the people of Kentucky to know that one of the Senators, John Brown, was a Scotch-Irishman. But here is where the cunning Myth got in its fine work. It was a case of apples of Sodom. Brown was a Scotch Irishman; but he had been educated at that hot-bed of effete eastern aristocracy, William and Mary. And so it went. The fiendish Myth knowing full well the ideals and wishes of the Pennsylvania-Scotch-Irish Kentuckians, ruthlessly compelled them, in the majority of cases, to choose Eastern Virginians, and in other cases, made concessions which were only apparent. The case of Senator John Breckenridge was the same as that of Mr. Brown. He was a William and Mary man. Another instance in which the good people thought they had thrown off the tyranny was when they elected Martin D.

Hardin. He had apparently the right stamp as he was born on the Monongahela in Pennsylvania. But alas! not only was his father a Fauquier county man from east of the Ridge; but his ancestors for generations had lived in St. Paul's Parish, Stafford (King George), St. Paul's the effetest of the effete, within whose bounds lies Chotank, where, according to reliable testimony, mint springs spontaneously from the graves of the finally effete aristocracy.

The evil story is ever the same. These Pennsylvanians and Valley men, though having the power to control Kentucky, continued to choose by far the greater number of their senators and representatives from men alien to them in birth and ideals, as men from east of the Blue Ridge were bound to be. They chose Humphrey Marshall of Westmoreland; Henry Clay of Hanover, John Pope of Prince William (whose ancestors had lived still further east) George M. Bibb of Louisa; W. T. Barry of Caroline, Jesse Bledsoe and George Walker of Culpeper, Thos. Metcalfe of Fauquier, David Meriwether of Louisa and J. R. Underwood of Goochland, as U. S. Senators. Amazing power of the Myth! Even when the Kentuckians got a man close to the eastern side or the mountains, like Isham Talbot, they were compelled to take one of eastern ancestry. And when they hopefully chose natives of Kentucky like Buckner Thruston and John J. Crittenden, the dark power of the Myth directed them to men whose ancestors had lived in Eastern Virginia from the Seventeenth century. Richard M. Johnson, whose father was an Orange and Culpeper man is another instance of their sort.

Of the twenty-five senators from Kentucky, down to 1861, one, Rowan was a native of Pennsylvania; one, Dixon of North Carolina; and a third, Adair, of South Carolina. Three, Brown, Breckenridge and Logan were from the Valley and had no eastern ancestry. But the Machiavelian Myth not only educated Brown and Breckenridge at William and Mary, but gave the latter a wife, Mary Cabell, of the effete Eastern aristocracy. Three Senators, Thompson, Powell and Morehead, were born in Kentucky of ancestry unknown to this writer; but it is very probable that some or all of them, were of eastern Virginia descent. All the others, sixteen in number, were born in Eastern Virginia or were of that ancestry. This shows the wonderfully compelling power of the Myth.

The experience of the Kentuckians with the House of Representatives was the same. Down to 1831 there were sixty one members. Of these, twenty-one were born east of the Blue Ridge, in Virginia. When the evil tide of emigration from Eastern Virginia began to abate, Kentucky elected eight men of Eastern Virginia descent. Thirteen members were natives of Kentucky and of descent unknown to the writer; but the names indicate that at least half were of Eastern Virginia descent.

In spite of their controlling majority and their devotion to their own ideals (so alien to those of Eastern Virginia and its people) Mr. Cotterill's Pennsylvania and Valley men, during all this long time choose only three natives of Pennsylvania, four of the Valley of Virginia and two of Valley descent to represent them in Congress—about 14%, while they chose at least 27% of their representatives from the abhorred, degenerate Eastern Virginia stock. Another example of the power of the wicked Myth.

In regard to governors the conduct of the Myth was almost as scandalous. Another distinguished Kentucky historian, Mr. Watterson, makes it even worse. According to him, through many years the only true recipe for becoming governor of Kentucky was to be a Virginian and a student of William and Mary, and then to hang out a lawyer's shingle in Kentucky. He says that members of the early pioneer stock (of course the true blue Pennsylvania breed) who had gubernatorial ambitions had to emigrate north of the Ohio.

Of fifteen governors Shelby, Adair, and Desha, one-fifth, were what Mr. Cotterill thinks good Kentuckians should be. The others are all of known Virginia birth or descent, except one, Powell. George Madison was from Augusta, but his father came from King and Queen; Charles Scott was from Cumberland or Powhatan; James Clark from Louisa; William Owsley and James Garrard from the Northern Neck; Thomas Metcalfe from Fauquier; R. P. Letcher from Goochland and John Breathait from Botetourt. Chas. Slaughter Morehead, was a native of Kentucky; but his ancestors were all from east of the Blue Ridge. The same was the case with John J. Crittenden, his maternal line, especially, being among the earliest settlers of Eastern Virginia. Christopher Greenup was a Virginian, but his birth place seems to be unknown. Lazarus W. Powell was a native of Kentucky. So, in spite of the strenuous objection of Kentuckians to such people, they elected ten out of fifteen governors, who were of Virginia stock from east of the mountains and it is entirely possible that two more, Greenup and Powell, had the same taint. If Mr. Cotterill's account of the Kentucky people and their ideals is correct, all this is as astonishing as if the followers of Lenin and Trotsky should insist, year after year, on choosing Romanoffs for office.

HANDBOOK OF MANUSCRIPTS IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1918, pp. 750.

Every one who knows anything of the manuscript collections in the Library of Congress has been anxious for just such a book as this is. Even those who may think they know the collection well will be astonished at its richness and value as revealed in this Handbook. There is hardly a branch of knowledge which is not represented. It is needless to say that this work is well done, and that the index of 205 pages makes the contents readily accessible. It is a book which every student, especially of American history, will always keep within reach of his hand.

FIGHTING BY SOUTHERN FEDERAL. In which the author places the numerical strength of the armies that fought for the Confederacy at approximately 1,000,000 men, and shown that 296,579 white soldiers living in the South, and 137,676 colored soldiers, and approximately 200,000 men living in the North that were born in the South making 634,255 southern soldiers fought for the Preservation of the Union. By CHARLES C. ANDERSON. New York. The Neale Publishing Company, 1912, pp. 408.

The title page gives so good an idea of the contents of this remarkable book that little more need be said except that the author (a resident of Richmond and a member of this Society) has supported his thesis by immense and most careful research. He takes the campaigns and battles in order and shows as accurately as possible the part taken in each by southern men in the Union army. The latter part of the volume is an alphabetical list, and account of Southern officers in the Northern army and their records. These records were necessarily taken chiefly from United States army records and in some instances, probably looked differently from a Confederate point of view. It is a book indispensable for students of the War of 1861-65.

DESCENDANTS OF JAMES WILSON THOMAS AND ELIZA ANN JOHNSON, ALSO THE BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN LILBURN THOMAS, also containing an account of the emigration of the Thomas and Johnson families and others to Missouri, pp. 15.

MATERNAL ANCESTRY OF FRANK TRUMBULL, pp. 30.